RE: Neuroscience Graduate Group Degree Requirements

Enclosed is a copy of the Neuroscience Graduate Group degree requirements as approved by Graduate Council on March 6, 2020. These degree requirements are now the official requirements for the Neuroscience Graduate Group and will be posted on the Office of Graduate Studies program webpage:

https://grad.ucdavis.edu/programs/gnes

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of graduate education.

Sincerely,

Carlee Arnett, Chair
Graduate Council

CC: Najwa Marrush, Graduate Group Coordinator
Jasmine Bonite, Project/Policy Analyst, Graduate Studies
M.S. PROGRAM

1) Admissions Requirements

Students are not admitted directly to the M.S. program. The M.S. degree is normally only granted to Ph.D. students in Neuroscience who leave the program prior to completion and choose to exercise the change of degree objective option discussed in the Ph.D. Requirements (see Section 13).

2) M.S. Plans I and II

Plan I. This plan requires 42 units of graduate (200-level) coursework in Neuroscience, exclusive of research (299) units, and a thesis.

Plan II. This plan requires 42 units of graduate (200-level) coursework in Neuroscience, exclusive of research (299) units. In addition, a Comprehensive Examination is required of each candidate. No thesis is required.

Students may follow Plan II if they wish to change their degree objective to M.S. and have passed the Ph.D. Qualifying Exam prior to filing the Change of Degree Objective form. Students should follow Plan I if they wish to change their degree objective to M.S. prior to the Ph.D. Qualifying Exam and do not want to undertake the work required for the Qualifying Exam.

3) Course Requirements (42 units)

The coursework requirements are completed within the first two years of the program. 36 units of work in the first year includes, in addition to a specific set of Neuroscience (NSC) 200-level seminar and lecture courses, a series of laboratory rotations, a series of journal club courses, and a series of NSC 298 Group Study courses. For the laboratory rotations, students enroll in NSC 200LB, a repeatable course each quarter. The journal clubs are 1-unit courses whose topics and course designations vary from quarter to quarter (e.g., NSC 283, 284, 289, 298). The required coursework in the second year consists of NSC 219 and 3 journal club courses. A current list of journal club offerings can be obtained from the Graduate Program Coordinator.

a) Required Courses

Year 1 Courses

Fall Quarter (12 units)

- NSC 200LB – Laboratory Methods in Neurobiology (3 units)
- NSC 201 – Neuroanatomy (3 units)
- NSC 221 – Cellular Neuroscience (4 units)
- NSC 298 – Responsible Conduct of Research Ethical Lecture Series (1 unit)
- One NSC Journal Club of student’s choice (1 unit)
Winter Quarter (12 units)

- NSC 200LB – Laboratory Methods in Neurobiology (3 units)
- NSC/NPB 222 – Systems Neuroscience (5 units)
- NSC 226 – Molecular and Developmental Neurobiology (4 units)

Spring Quarter (12 units)

- NSC 200LB – Laboratory Methods in Neurobiology (3 units)
- NSC 223 – Cognitive Neuroscience (4 units)
- NSC 298 – Preliminary Exam Preparations (3 units)
- NSC 298 – Responsible Conduct of Research Ethical Lecture Series (1 unit)
- One NSC journal club course of student’s choice (1 unit)

Year 2 Courses

Fall, Winter and Spring (6 units):

- One NSC journal club course of student’s choice each term (1 unit each for 3 units total)
- NSC 219 - Design to Data: Statistics for Modern Neuroscience (3 units)

b) Elective Courses (no minimum)

Neuroscience graduate students are encouraged to take elective courses after their first year of study and journal club courses subsequent to meeting the requirement stated above. These should be chosen in consultation with a member of the Graduate Advisory Committee or the student’s Major Professor. There is no minimum requirement.

c) Research (no minimum)

Neuroscience graduate students will take NSC 299 research units with the student’s Major Professor starting in second year. There is no minimum requirement.

d) English Language Requirement

Students who have not obtained a previous degree at an approved English-medium institution or demonstrated English-language proficiency through an appropriate exam (e.g. TOEFL) are required to complete appropriate English-language courses, as described in the policy Graduate Student Course Requirements – English as Second Language (GC2018-02). Courses taken in satisfaction of this requirement do not count towards the units required for graduation.

e) Summary

A total of 42 units of coursework is required. Students must enroll for at least 12 units each quarter, including research, academic and seminar units. Courses that fulfill program course requirements may not be taken S/U unless they are offered only on an S/U basis. Once course requirements are completed, students can take additional seminars or lecture courses as needed or desired, although they may also use research (299) and journal club courses to attain the required 12-unit per quarter minimum enrollment. Per UC regulations students cannot enroll in more than 12 units of graduate level (200) courses or more than 16 units of combined undergraduate and graduate level (100, 200, 300) courses per quarter.
4) Special Requirements
Students are required to serve as a teaching assistant (TA) for one quarter in a course in Neuroscience or a related area. Students are also required to pass the Preliminary Examination:
The Preliminary Exam is administered after the first year coursework has been completed. It has both a written and an oral component.

1. Written Exam Component
The written exam is administered in a computer lab after completion of the first year coursework. It is designed to be finished in 4 hours, although 6 hours are allowed (3 hour morning session, 3 hour afternoon session). It is approximately 1/3 basic facts, 1/3 problem solving/short answer, and 1/3 integrative essay and covers the knowledge base that is taught in NSC 201, 221, 222, 223, and 226.

2. Oral Exam Component
The oral exam is administered within a week following the written exam. It is designed to be 1.5 hours, though additional time may be granted on a case-by-case basis. The oral component examines the student on areas of perceived weakness from the written exam and allows testing of the student’s ability to “think on their feet”.

3. Outcomes
The possible outcomes are Pass, No Pass, or Fail and apply to both the written and oral components of the exam. The Preliminary Exam Committee members should endeavor to reach a unanimous decision. If after due deliberation the committee has divided vote, the situation will be resolved following the “Regulations Regarding Qualifying Examinations for Admission to Candidacy for the Degree Doctor of Philosophy” by Graduate Studies. If a student receives a No Pass on the first attempt, the exam may be re-taken within 3 months (with exceptions for special circumstances requiring approval by the Preliminary Exam and Educational Policy committees). If a No Pass is given for one or more individual sections of the exam, and a Pass is given for the other(s), the student need only retake the section(s) on which a No Pass was received. A student will be recommended for disqualification from the program if either of the following occurs:
   • The outcome of a second attempt is a No Pass.
   • The outcome of any attempt is a Fail.

5) Committees
   a) Admissions Committee
Once the completed application, all supporting material, and the application fee have been received, the application is submitted to the Admissions Committee. The application deadline is set on December 1st each year. It should be noted that the Admissions Committee only reviews and accepts applications for the PhD. The Admissions Committee, which is appointed by the Chair of the Graduate Group, in consultation with the Executive Committee, consists of five graduate group faculty, one of whom serves as chair, and one senior student representative. Based on a review of the entire application a recommendation is made to accept or decline an applicant’s request for admission. That recommendation is forwarded to the Dean of Graduate Studies for final approval of admission. Notification of admissions decisions is sent by Graduate Studies.
b) Graduate Advisory Committee

The Graduate Advisory Committee consists of the program’s graduate advisors, who are faculty members from different broad areas of Neuroscience. They are nominated by the Executive Committee of the Graduate Group (defined in Neuroscience Graduate Group Bylaws) and appointed in compliance with the policies and procedures of Graduate Council and Graduate Studies. The number of faculty on the Graduate Advisory Committee is such as to create a student-to-advisor ratio of 15:1. One member is appointed as the Master Advisor. Students meet with one of the Graduate Advisory Committee members formally at least once per year to monitor progress. All members of the committee are available to meet with students to advise them regarding laboratory rotation and elective course selection and are eligible to chair the Qualifying Exam Committee.

c) Preliminary Examination Committee

The Preliminary Exam Committee consists of a chair and five other faculty members from the Graduate Group nominated by the Chair of the Graduate Group and approved by the Educational Policy Committee of the Graduate Group (defined in Neuroscience Graduate Group Bylaws). Members are selected in such a way as to represent different broad areas of Neuroscience.

For students electing to follow Plan II for the M.S. degree, the comprehensive final examination is identical to the Qualifying Examination, as detailed in the Ph.D. Requirements (see section 8). For students electing to follow Plan I for the M.S., a Thesis Committee, consisting of a chair and four other faculty members nominated by the student in consultation with the Major Professor and the Master Advisor and approved by the Graduate Studies, in accordance with Graduate Council policy, guides the student through the process of writing the thesis and determines when the requirements for the degree have been satisfied. There must be one committee member from outside the Neuroscience Graduate Group. The Major Professor will serve as chair of the committee.

6) Advising Structure and Mentoring

The Major Professor is the faculty member who primarily supervises the student’s research and serves as chair of the Dissertation Committee. This person is generally the Principal Investigator of the laboratory in which this research is conducted. The Master Advisor, who is appointed by Graduate Studies and serves as the Chair of Graduate Advisory Committee, is the primary resource for information on academic requirements, policies, and procedures. Other members of the Graduate Advisory Committee provide advice on course selection and other academic matters as needed. The Graduate Program Coordinator assists students with administrative details of the program. The Mentoring Guidelines can be found on the Graduate Studies web site.

7) Advancement to Candidacy

Every student wishing to be awarded an M.S. degree must file an official application for Candidacy for the Degree of Master of Science after completing at least one-half of their course requirements and at least one quarter before completing all degree requirements. The Candidacy for the Degree of Master form can be found on the Graduate Studies web site. A completed form includes a list of courses the student will take to complete degree requirements. If changes must be made to the student’s course plan after s/he has advanced
to candidacy, the Master Advisor must recommend these changes to Graduate Studies. Students must have the Master Advisor and committee chair sign the candidacy form before it can be submitted to Graduate Studies. If the candidacy is approved, the Graduate Studies will send a copy to the Graduate Program Coordinator, the student, and, if applicable, the Thesis Committee Chair. If the Graduate Studies determines that a student is not eligible for advancement, the department and the student will be told the reasons for the application’s deferral. Some reasons for deferring an application include: grade point average below 3.0, outstanding “I” grades in required courses, or insufficient units.

8) **Comprehensive Examination and Thesis Requirements**

*Comprehensive Examination:* For students who choose to file the Change of Degree Objective form after having passed the Qualifying Exam for the Ph.D., passing the Qualifying Exam counts as satisfying the comprehensive exam requirement for the M.S. degree.

*Thesis:* Research for the Master’s thesis is to be carried out under the supervision the student’s Major Professor and the members of the Thesis Committee. The thesis may be an original contribution to knowledge in the field or a comprehensive literature review. A draft of the thesis is to be submitted to the Thesis Committee at least one month before the student plans to make requested revisions. All committee members must approve the thesis and sign the title page before it is submitted to Graduate Studies for final approval. Should the student fall short of making satisfactory progress on their research, the Master Advisor or the Chair of the Graduate Group shall submit an annual or interim assessment to Graduate Studies that describes the marginal or unsatisfactory assessment of the student’s progress. Should the committee determine at any point that the student’s progress is unacceptable, even with substantial revisions to the work, the Master Advisor, in consultation with the Chair of the Graduate Group, may recommend to the Dean of Graduate Studies that the student be disqualified from the program. The thesis must be filed in a quarter in which the student is registered or on filing fee. The quarterly deadlines concerning filing are listed in the Schedule of Classes, which is available in the Bookstore as well as online, and are posted on the Calendar of the Graduate Studies.

9) **Normative Time to Degree**

Because the master’s degree is not offered as a direct-admit program, the concept of normative time to degree does not apply. Instead, students who are pursuing a doctorate change their degree objective and leave with the master’s degree. Among the four students who did this between 2009 and 2017, the average median time to degree from starting in the PhD program was four years.

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11 [https://registrar.ucdavis.edu/calendar/master](https://registrar.ucdavis.edu/calendar/master)

12 [https://grad.ucdavis.edu/calendar/month](https://grad.ucdavis.edu/calendar/month)
10) **Typical Time Line and Sequence of Events**

M.S. candidates follow the same Time Line as specified for Ph.D. students in the Ph.D. Requirements (see section 10). The only difference is that the degree objective is changed from Ph.D. to M.S. at some point in the typical sequence of events.

11) **Sources of Funding**

For the first year, students are funded either by an NIH training grant or by a Neuroscience Graduate Group Fellowship. After the first year, students are funded either as GSRs or as TAs.

12) **PELP, In Absentia and Filing Fee Status**

Information about PELP (Planned Educational Leave), In Absentia (reduced fees when researching out of state), and Filing Fee status can be found on the Graduate Studies Webpage.¹³

¹³ [https://grad.ucdavis.edu/forms](https://grad.ucdavis.edu/forms)
Ph.D. PROGRAM

1) Admissions Requirements

Consideration for admission requires a bachelor’s degree, three letters of recommendation, official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended beyond high school, TOEFL or IELTS score (if applicable) and the Graduate Studies online application with fee by the stated admission deadline. A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required. Admissions decisions are made on a case-by-case basis. Meeting these criteria does not guarantee admission. The decision to recommend admission to the Dean of Graduate Studies will be made by the Admissions Committee on the basis of available space and the competitiveness of the applicant compared to the eligible pool.

There are no course prerequisite requirements for this program.

2) Dissertation Plan

This program follows dissertation plan B. There is a Dissertation Committee consisting of five members, including the chair, an optional final oral examination (made on an individual student basis by the dissertation committee), and a required exit seminar.

3) Course Requirements (42 units)

The coursework requirements for the Ph.D. are completed within the first two years of the program. 36 units of work in the first year includes, in addition to a specific set of Neuroscience (NSC) 200-level seminar and lecture courses, a series of laboratory rotations, a series of journal club courses, and a series of NSC 298 Group Study courses. For the laboratory rotations, students enroll in NSC 200LB, a repeatable course each quarter. The journal clubs are 1-unit courses whose topics and course designations vary from quarter to quarter (e.g., NSC 283, 284, 289, 298). The required coursework in the second year consists of NSC 219 and 3 journal club courses. A current list of journal club offerings can be obtained from the Graduate Program Coordinator.

a) Required Courses

Year 1 Courses

Fall Quarter (12 units)
- NSC 200LB – Laboratory Methods in Neurobiology (3 units)
- NSC 201 – Neuroanatomy (3 units)
- NSC 221 – Cellular Neuroscience (4 units)
- NSC 298 – Responsible Conduct of Research Ethical Lecture Series (1 unit)
- One NSC Journal Club of student’s choice (1 unit)

Winter Quarter (12 units)
- NSC 200LB – Laboratory Methods in Neurobiology (3 units)
- NSC/NPB 222 – Systems Neuroscience (5 units)
- NSC 226 – Molecular and Developmental Neurobiology (4 units)

Spring Quarter (12 units)
- NSC 200LB – Laboratory Methods in Neurobiology (3 units)
• NSC 223 – Cognitive Neuroscience (4 units)
• NSC 298 – Preliminary Exam Preparations (3 units)
• NSC 298 – Responsible Conduct of Research Ethical Lecture Series (1 unit)
• One NSC journal club course of student’s choice (1 unit).

Year 2 Courses

Fall, Winter and Spring (6 units):
• One NSC journal club course of student’s choice each term (1 unit each for 3 units total)
• NSC 219 - Design to Data: Statistics for Modern Neuroscience (3 units)

b) Elective Courses (no minimum)
Neuroscience graduate students are encouraged to take elective courses after their first year of study and journal club courses subsequent to meeting the requirement stated above. These should be chosen in consultation with a member of the Graduate Advisory Committee or the student’s Major Professor. There is no minimum requirement.

c) Research (no minimum)
Neuroscience graduate students will take NSC 299 research units with the student’s Major Professor starting in second year. There is no minimum requirement.

d) English Language Requirement
Students who have not obtained a previous degree at an approved English-medium institution or demonstrated English-language proficiency through an appropriate exam (e.g. TOEFL) are required to complete appropriate English-language courses, as described in the policy Graduate Student Course Requirements – English as Second Language (GC2018-02). Courses taken in satisfaction of this requirement do not count towards the units required for graduation.

e) Summary
A total of 42 units of coursework is required. Students must enroll for at least 12 units each quarter, including research, academic and seminar units. Courses that fulfill program course requirements may not be taken S/U unless they are offered only on an S/U basis. Once course requirements are completed, students can take additional seminars or lecture courses as needed or desired, although they may also use research (299) and journal club courses to attain the required 12-unit per quarter minimum enrollment. Per UC regulations students cannot enroll in more than 12 units of graduate level (200) courses or more than 16 units of combined undergraduate and graduate level (100, 200, 300) courses per quarter.

4) Special Requirements
Students are required to serve as a teaching assistant (TA) for one quarter in a course in Neuroscience or a related area.
Advising Structure and Mentoring

The **Major Professor** is the faculty member who primarily supervises the student’s research and serves as chair of the Dissertation Committee. This person is generally the Principal Investigator of the laboratory in which this research is conducted. The **Master Advisor**, who is appointed by Graduate Studies and serves as the Chair of Graduate Advisory Committee, is the primary resource for information on academic requirements, policies, and procedures. Other members of the Graduate Advisory Committee provide advice on course selection and other academic matters as needed. The **Graduate Program Coordinator** assists students with administrative details of the program. The **Mentoring Guidelines** can be found on the Graduate Studies web site.

5) Committees

a) **Admissions Committee**

Once the completed application, all supporting material, and the application fee have been received, the application is submitted to the Admissions Committee. The application deadline is set on December 1st each year. The Admissions Committee, which is appointed by the Chair of the Graduate Group, in consultation with the Executive Committee, consists of five graduate group faculty, one of whom serves as chair, and one senior student representative. Based on a review of the entire application a recommendation is made to accept or decline an applicant’s request for admission. That recommendation is forwarded to the Dean of Graduate Studies for final approval of admission. Notification of admissions decisions is sent by Graduate Studies.

b) **Graduate Advisory Committee**

The Graduate Advisory Committee consists of the program’s graduate advisors, who are faculty members from different broad areas of Neuroscience. They are nominated by the Executive Committee of the Graduate Group (defined in Neuroscience Graduate Group Bylaws) and appointed in compliance with the policies and procedures of Graduate Council and Graduate Studies. The number of faculty on the Graduate Advisory Committee is such as to create a student-to-advisor ratio of 15:1. One member is appointed as the Master Advisor. Students meet with one of the Graduate Advisory Committee members formally at least once per year to monitor progress. All members of the committee are available to meet with students to advise them regarding laboratory rotation and elective course selection and are eligible to chair the Qualifying Exam Committee.

c) **Preliminary Examination Committee**

The Preliminary Exam Committee consists of a chair and five other faculty members from the Graduate Group nominated by the Chair of the Graduate Group and approved by the Educational Policy Committee of the Graduate Group (defined in Neuroscience Graduate Group Bylaws). Members are selected in such a way as to represent different broad areas of Neuroscience.

d) **Qualifying Examination Committee**

The Qualifying Exam Committee consists of five faculty members nominated by the student, in consultation with the Master Advisor and the Major Professor, and appointed by the Office of Graduate Studies in conformance with Graduate Council policy. The members of the committee are to be experts in areas related to the student’s proposal. The chair of the committee must be a member of the Graduate Advisory Committee, the Chair of the Graduate Group, or the Chair of Admissions. There must be
one member from outside of the Neuroscience Graduate Group. The Major Professor may not serve on the committee.

e) Dissertation Committee
The Dissertation Committee is a five-member committee nominated by the student, in consultation with the Major Professor, approved by the Master Advisor, and appointed by Graduate Studies. The members of the committee should all be experts in areas related to the student’s dissertation work. The Major Professor will serve as chair of the committee. There must be one committee member from outside of the Neuroscience Graduate Group. The composition of the Dissertation Committee is entered on the Advancement to Candidacy form. The role of this committee is to advise the doctoral student on the research topic and methods and then to review the final completed dissertation for acceptance. The committee chair should determine the desires of the individual members regarding assistance with the research and dissertation review at the time the committee is constituted. Students are expected to meet with their Dissertation Committee at least once per year, or more often as deemed necessary by the student or the committee. Dissertation Committee members are expected to read and comment on a dissertation within four weeks of its submission. This time limit policy does not apply to summer periods for faculty holding nine-month appointments. The student, in consultation with the Major Professor, is to coordinate a timeline for the submission of the dissertation to the committee. This timeline must allow all committee members enough time to fulfill their responsibilities within the four-week deadline.

6) Advancement to Candidacy
Before advancing to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree in Neuroscience, a student must have satisfied all the coursework requirements detailed in section 3 above, must have maintained a minimum GPA of 3.0, and must have passed both the Preliminary Exam and the Qualifying Exam discussed in section 8 below. Students in this program normally advance by the end of the 7th quarter. Once the Qualifying Exam has been passed, the student must file the appropriate paperwork with the Office of Graduate Studies and pay the candidacy fee in order to be officially promoted to Ph.D. Candidacy. Refer to the Graduate Studies policy website for additional details regarding policies governing advancement to candidacy and the Qualifying Examination.

7) Preliminary Examination, Qualifying Examination, and Dissertation Requirements

a) Preliminary Examination
The Preliminary Exam is administered after the first year coursework has been completed. It has both a written and an oral component.

1 https://grad.neuroscience.ucdavis.edu/about
4 https://grad.ucdavis.edu/policies
1. Written Exam Component
The written exam is administered in a computer lab after completion of the first year coursework. It is designed to be finished in 4 hours, although 6 hours are allowed (3 hour morning session, 3 hour afternoon session). It is approximately 1/3 basic facts, 1/3 problem solving/short answer, and 1/3 integrative essay and covers the knowledge base that is taught in NSC 201, 221, 222, 223, and 226.

2. Oral Exam Component
The oral exam is administered within a week following the written exam. It is designed to be 1.5 hours, though additional time may be granted on a case-by-case basis. The oral component examines the student on areas of perceived weakness from the written exam and allows testing of the student’s ability to “think on their feet”.

3. Outcomes
The possible outcomes are Pass, No Pass, or Fail and apply to both the written and oral components of the exam. The Preliminary Exam Committee members should endeavor to reach a unanimous decision. If after due deliberation the committee has divided vote, the situation will be resolved following the “Regulations Regarding Qualifying Examinations for Admission to Candidacy for the Degree Doctor of Philosophy” by Graduate Studies. If a student receives a No Pass on the first attempt, the exam may be re-taken within 3 months (with exceptions for special circumstances requiring approval by the Preliminary Exam and Educational Policy committees). If a No Pass is given for one or more individual sections of the exam, and a Pass is given for the other(s), the student need only retake the section(s) on which a No Pass was received. A student will be recommended for disqualification from the program if either of the following occurs:
   - The outcome of a second attempt is a No Pass.
   - The outcome of any attempt is a Fail.

b) Qualifying Examination
1. Exam Timing: This exam is to be completed within one year of passing the Preliminary Examination.

2. The Proposal
The research proposal is modeled after an NIH proposal for a predoctoral fellowship (NRSA), with the addition of an overall in-depth introduction. The formatting of the proposal must follow NIH guidelines including:
   Font: Arial 11; Margins: 0.5 inches; Single Spaced.
   The following sections must be included:
   a. An overall introduction to the proposal, reviewing relevant literature and putting the proposal into context (up to 5 pages). Note: this is not part of the NIH proposal format.
   b. Project Summary/Abstract (30 lines of text).
   c. Specific Aim(s) (1 page). Compactly outlines the main scientific questions addressed by the proposal. Should include hypotheses and a very brief description of what will be done to test the hypotheses.
   d. Research Strategy (6 pages). This should be modeled after the guidelines of an NRSA application, and should include significance, innovation, and approach. The student should clearly describe the methods under use, potential pitfalls, and what would be
concluded from different possible outcomes. Preliminary data can be included in this section, but is not required.

In general, the document should explain why the experiments are being done, how they are being performed, and what will be concluded from different possible experimental outcomes. It should be remembered that the proposal is not a binding contract for the work to be done; normally the proposal evolves under the guidance of the Major Professor. The proposal is to be given to the Qualifying Examination Committee at least 3 weeks in advance of the date for the oral portion of the exam.

3. **Oral Portion of the Exam**

*Structure of the exam.* This is a 3-hour exam. It starts with the presentation of the proposal. It is expected that the committee members will have read the proposal in detail, so this section should be brief (approximately 20-30 minutes), perhaps offering more graphical support than in the proposal itself. Following this, there is to be a general discussion of the proposal, with examiners free to explore background (i.e., the student’s scholarship), methodology, and reasoning.

*Expectations.* The proposal should be well researched, scholarly, and the presentation professional. The student should be fully in grasp of the rationale behind the proposed experiment, the methodology used to perform it, and what interpretations will be drawn from it. In short, the student is expected to show full professional competence as a scientist.

*Outcomes.* Following Graduate Council policy, there are three possible outcomes: Pass, Not Pass, and Fail. Whether or not the committee reaches a decision, the committee Chair shall provide the QE Report to Graduate Council within 72 hours. The Exam committee’s unanimous vote is required for an outcome of Pass on the exam. If a student does not pass the exam, the committee may recommend that the student be reexamined one more time, but only if the Master Advisor concurs with the committee. The second exam must take place within two quarters of the first exam. The format of the second exam is the same as that of the first exam and may include the submission of an amended version of the proposal. The examination may not be repeated more than once. A student who does not pass on the second attempt is subject to disqualification from further graduate work in the program.

c) **Dissertation**

1. **Exit Seminar**

The dissertation follows Plan B with a required exit seminar. Satisfaction of this requirement must be verified by the Dissertation Committee Chair. The Exit Seminar is a formal public presentation of the student’s research before the program faculty and students. The Dissertation Committee will not sign the Dissertation until after the exit seminar has taken place. Adequate scheduling of the exit seminar is the responsibility of the student.
2. **Dissertation: General Requirements**

Filing of a Ph.D. dissertation with the Office of Graduate Studies is normally the last requirement satisfied by the candidate. The quarterly deadlines for completing this requirement are listed in the Schedule of Classes, which is available in the Bookstore as well as online, and are posted on the Calendar of the Office of Graduate Studies. A candidate must be a registered student or in Filing Fee status at the time of filing a dissertation, with the exception of the summer period between the end of the Spring Quarter and the beginning of Fall Quarter. The dissertation is to be prepared, submitted and filed according to regulations instituted by the Office of Graduate Studies.

8) **Normative Time to Degree**

Normative time to advancement to candidacy is seven quarters. Normative time in candidacy is an additional eight to eleven quarters. Normative time to degree is, thus, five to six years.

9) **Typical Time Line and Sequence of Events**

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<td>NSC journal club (1 unit)</td>
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<td>Electives or 299 (11 units)</td>
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<td>Dissertation research and writing</td>
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<td>Exit seminar, normally by the end of the sixth year</td>
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6. [https://grad.ucdavis.edu/resources/graduate-student-resources/academic-information-and-services/dates-and-deadlines](https://grad.ucdavis.edu/resources/graduate-student-resources/academic-information-and-services/dates-and-deadlines)


8. Responsible Conduct of Research Ethical Lecture Series
10) Sources of Funding
For the first year, students are funded either by an NIH training grant or by a Neuroscience Graduate Group Fellowship. After the first year, students are funded either as GSRs or as TAs.

11) PELP, In Absentia and Filing Fee Status
Information about PELP (Planned Educational Leave), In Absentia (reduced fees when researching out of state), and Filing Fee status can be found on the Graduate Studies webpage https://grad.ucdavis.edu/forms.

12) Leaving the Program Prior to Completion of the Ph.D. Requirements
Students who leave the program prior to completing the requirements for the Ph.D. may be eligible to receive the M.S. degree if they have fulfilled all the requirements (see the M.S. Requirements section below). Students can use the Change of Degree Objective form available from the Office of the Registrar.9

9 https://local-resources.ucdavis.edu/local_resources/forms/D065-graduate-major-degree-change.pdf